

What is claimed is:

1. In a method of removing a substance that disfigures an image, an adsorbent having a molecular structure including voids that have a diameter great enough to pass molecules of said substance, which is deposited on a surface of an image carrier, therethrough and contain water therein is held in contact with said image carrier.

2. A device for removing a substance that disfigures an image, said device comprising:

an adsorbent support supporting an adsorbent having a molecular structure including voids that have a diameter great enough to pass molecules of said substance, which is deposited on a surface of an image carrier, therethrough and containing water therein.

3. The device as claimed in claim 2, wherein said adsorbent is affixed to said adsorbent support.

4. The device as claimed in claim 3, wherein said adsorbent comprises grains releasably carried on said adsorbent support.

5. The device as claimed in claim 4, wherein said adsorbent support includes an elastic body carrying said adsorbent.

6. The device as claimed in claim 5, wherein said adsorbent support is rotatable.

7. The device as claimed in claim 6, wherein said the voids of said adsorbent have a diameter great enough to pass molecules of ammonium nitrate therethrough.

8. The device as claimed in claim 7, wherein said adsorbent comprises zeolite.

9. The device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the molecular structure of zeolite has at least six oxygen rings.

10. The device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the molecular structure of zeolite has at least eight oxygen rings.

11. The device as claimed in claim 4, wherein said adsorbent support comprises an elastic body and a surface layer removably fitted on said elastic layer, said adsorbent being carried on said surface layer.

12. The device as claimed in claim 4, wherein said adsorbent support comprises a brush having bristles on which said adsorbent is carried.

13. The device as claimed in claim 4, wherein said adsorbent support comprises an endless belt passed over a plurality of support members, said adsorbent being carried on a surface of said endless belt.

14. The device as claimed in claim 4, wherein said adsorbent support is rotatable.

15. The device as claimed in claim 3, wherein said

adsorbent support includes an elastic body carrying said adsorbent.

16. The device as claimed in claim 3, wherein said adsorbent support comprises an elastic body and a surface layer removably fitted on said elastic layer, said adsorbent being carried on said surface layer.

17. The device as claimed in claim 3, wherein said adsorbent support comprises a brush having bristles on which said adsorbent is carried.

18. The device as claimed in claim 3, wherein said adsorbent support comprises an endless belt passed over a plurality of support members, said adsorbent being carried on a surface of said endless belt.

19. The device as claimed in claim 3, wherein said adsorbent support is rotatable.

20. The device as claimed in claim 3, wherein said the voids of said adsorbent have a diameter great enough to pass molecules of ammonium nitrate therethrough.

21. The device as claimed in claim 20, wherein said adsorbent comprises zeolite.

22. The device as claimed in claim 21, wherein the molecular structure of zeolite has at least six oxygen rings.

23. The device as claimed in claim 21, wherein the molecular structure of zeolite has at least eight oxygen

rings.

24. The device as claimed in claim 2, wherein said adsorbent comprises grains releasably carried on said adsorbent support.

25. The device as claimed in claim 24, wherein said adsorbent support includes an elastic body carrying said adsorbent.

26. The device as claimed in claim 25, wherein said adsorbent support is rotatable.

27. The device as claimed in claim 26, wherein said the voids of said adsorbent have a diameter great enough to pass molecules of ammonium nitrate therethrough.

28. The device as claimed in claim 27, wherein said adsorbent comprises zeolite.

29. The device as claimed in claim 28, wherein the molecular structure of zeolite has at least six oxygen rings.

30. The device as claimed in claim 28, wherein the molecular structure of zeolite has at least eight oxygen rings.

31. The device as claimed in claim 24, wherein said adsorbent support comprises an elastic body and a surface layer removably fitted on said elastic layer, said adsorbent being carried on said surface layer.

32. The device as claimed in claim 24, wherein said

adsorbent support comprises a brush having bristles on which said adsorbent is carried.

33. The device as claimed in claim 24, wherein said adsorbent support comprises an endless belt passed over a plurality of support members, said adsorbent being carried on a surface of said endless belt.

34. The device as claimed in claim 24, wherein said adsorbent support is rotatable.

35. The device as claimed in claim 2, wherein said adsorbent support includes an elastic body carrying said adsorbent.

36. The device as claimed in claim 35, wherein said adsorbent support is rotatable.

37. The device as claimed in claim 36, wherein said the voids of said adsorbent have a diameter great enough to pass molecules of ammonium nitrate therethrough.

38. The device as claimed in claim 37, wherein said adsorbent comprises zeolite.

39. The device as claimed in claim 38, wherein the molecular structure of zeolite has at least six oxygen rings.

40. The device as claimed in claim 38, wherein the molecular structure of zeolite has at least eight oxygen rings.

41. The device as claimed in claim 2, wherein said

adsorbent support comprises an elastic body and a surface layer removably fitted on said elastic layer, said adsorbent being carried on said surface layer.

42. The device as claimed in claim 41, wherein said adsorbent support is rotatable.

43. The device as claimed in claim 42, wherein said the voids of said adsorbent have a diameter great enough to pass molecules of ammonium nitrate therethrough.

44. The device as claimed in claim 43, wherein said adsorbent comprises zeolite.

45. The device as claimed in claim 44, wherein the molecular structure of zeolite has at least six oxygen rings.

46. The device as claimed in claim 44, wherein the molecular structure of zeolite has at least eight oxygen rings.

47. The device as claimed in claim 2, wherein said adsorbent support comprises a brush having bristles on which said adsorbent is carried.

48. The device as claimed in claim 47, wherein said adsorbent support is rotatable.

49. The device as claimed in claim 48, wherein said the voids of said adsorbent have a diameter great enough to pass molecules of ammonium nitrate therethrough.

50. The device as claimed in claim 49, wherein said

adsorbent comprises zeolite.

51. The device as claimed in claim 50, wherein the molecular structure of zeolite has at least six oxygen rings.

52. The device as claimed in claim 50, wherein the molecular structure of zeolite has at least eight oxygen rings.

53. The device as claimed in claim 2, wherein said adsorbent support comprises an endless belt passed over a plurality of support members, said adsorbent being carried on a surface of said endless belt.

54. The device as claimed in claim 53, wherein said adsorbent support is rotatable.

55. The device as claimed in claim 54, wherein said the voids of said adsorbent have a diameter great enough to pass molecules of ammonium nitrate therethrough.

56. The device as claimed in claim 55, wherein said adsorbent comprises zeolite.

57. The device as claimed in claim 56, wherein the molecular structure of zeolite has at least six oxygen rings.

58. The device as claimed in claim 56, wherein the molecular structure of zeolite has at least eight oxygen rings.

59. The device as claimed in claim 2, wherein said

adsorbent support is rotatable.

60. The device as claimed in claim 59, wherein said the voids of said adsorbent have a diameter great enough to pass molecules of ammonium nitrate therethrough.

61. The device as claimed in claim 60, wherein said adsorbent comprises zeolite.

62. The device as claimed in claim 61, wherein the molecular structure of zeolite has at least six oxygen rings.

63. The device as claimed in claim 61, wherein the molecular structure of zeolite has at least eight oxygen rings.

64. The device as claimed in claim 2, wherein said the voids of said adsorbent have a diameter great enough to pass molecules of ammonium nitrate therethrough.

65. The device as claimed in claim 64, wherein said adsorbent comprises zeolite.

66. The device as claimed in claim 65, wherein the molecular structure of zeolite has at least six oxygen rings.

67. The device as claimed in claim 65, wherein the molecular structure of zeolite has at least eight oxygen rings.

68. The device as claimed in claim 2, wherein said adsorbent comprises zeolite.

69. The device as claimed in claim 68, wherein the molecular structure of zeolite has at least six oxygen rings.

70. The device as claimed in claim 68, wherein the molecular structure of zeolite has at least eight oxygen rings.

71. In a process cartridge including a device for removing a substance that disfigures an image, said device comprising:

an adsorbent support supporting an adsorbent having a molecular structure including voids that have a diameter great enough to pass molecules of said substance, which is deposited on a surface of an image carrier, therethrough and contain water therein.

72. An image forming apparatus comprising:

a device for removing a substance that disfigures an image; and

an image carrier configured to form an image thereon;

said device comprising:

an adsorbent support supporting an adsorbent having a molecular structure including voids that have a diameter great enough to pass molecules of said substance, which is deposited on a surface of said image carrier, therethrough and containing water therein.

73. The apparatus as claimed in claim 72, wherein

said adsorbent support is rotatable by being driven by said image carrier.

74. The apparatus as claimed in claim 73, wherein said adsorbent support contacts said image carrier at a position downstream, in a direction in which the surface of said image carrier moves, of a position where cleaning means for removing toner left on said image carrier after image transfer contacts said image carrier, but upstream of a position where latent image forming means writes a latent image on said image carrier.

75. The apparatus as claimed in claim 74, wherein said adsorbent support contacts said image carrier at a position downstream, in said direction, of a position where a charging device uniformly charges said image carrier, but upstream of the position where said latent image forming means writes a latent image on said image carrier.

76. The apparatus as claimed in claim 75, wherein said image carrier comprises an amorphous silicon photoconductor.

77. The apparatus as claimed in claim 75, wherein said image carrier comprises a photoconductor having a surface layer in which a filler is dispersed.

78. The apparatus as claimed in claim 72, wherein said adsorbent carrier and said image carrier each move

at a particular linear velocity.

79. The apparatus as claimed in claim 78, wherein said adsorbent support contacts said image carrier at a position downstream, in a direction in which the surface of said image carrier moves, of a position where cleaning means for removing toner left on said image carrier after image transfer contacts said image carrier, but upstream of a position where latent image forming means writes a latent image on said image carrier.

80. The apparatus as claimed in claim 79, wherein said adsorbent support contacts said image carrier at a position downstream, in said direction, of a position where a charging device uniformly charges said image carrier, but upstream of the position where said latent image forming means writes a latent image on said image carrier.

81. The apparatus as claimed in claim 80, wherein said image carrier comprises an amorphous silicon photoconductor.

82. The apparatus as claimed in claim 80, wherein said image carrier comprises a photoconductor having a surface layer in which a filler is dispersed.

83. The apparatus as claimed in claim 72, wherein said adsorbent support contacts said image carrier at a position downstream, in a direction in which the surface

of said image carrier moves, of a position where cleaning means for removing toner left on said image carrier after image transfer contacts said image carrier, but upstream of a position where latent image forming means writes a latent image on said image carrier.

84. The apparatus as claimed in claim 83, wherein said adsorbent support contacts said image carrier at a position downstream, in said direction, of a position where a charging device uniformly charges said image carrier, but upstream of the position where said latent image forming means writes a latent image on said image carrier.

85. The apparatus as claimed in claim 84, wherein said image carrier comprises an amorphous silicon photoconductor.

86. The apparatus as claimed in claim 84, wherein said image carrier comprises a photoconductor having a surface layer in which a filler is dispersed.

87. The apparatus as claimed in claim 72, wherein said adsorbent support contacts said image carrier at a position downstream, in said direction, of a position where a charging device uniformly charges said image carrier, but upstream of the position where said latent image forming means writes a latent image on said image carrier.

88. The apparatus as claimed in claim 87, wherein said image carrier comprises an amorphous silicon photoconductor.

89. The apparatus as claimed in claim 87, wherein said image carrier comprises a photoconductor having a surface layer in which a filer is dispersed.

90. The apparatus as claimed in claim 72, wherein said image carrier comprises a photoconductor having a surface layer in which a filer is dispersed.